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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Independent and local business is the backbone of our economy here in the USA. As transnational capital moves American jobs overseas, shuts down local factories, and replaces human labor with automation, it's more important now than ever that we as citizens support the remaining independent service providers that are local to us.

Broadband internet is a vital utility. That should be clear to everyone -- everyone who banks, shops, does research, works, and seeks entertainment. The internet is integrated into the American lifestyle. Therefore it's important that we foster economic diversity in our cities, town, rural counties. Allowing only the hugest corporations to completely dominate the web infrastructure of our land will be to the detriment of all who rely on the internet in their daily lives.

In far-flung rural communities where the biggest corporate service providers don't see much profit to gain, independent and local providers can bridge the gap and offer access to all. Competition is the American way, and it usually helps out those who are under-served by the myopic giants that seek only the biggest profits.

Thank you for reading.

Brian Tester